(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) Yes, Sir. It is targeted to electrify all villages and habitations under Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana in five years.

(b) and (c) The Ministry of Non-conventional Energy Sources is implementing Remote Village Electrification Programme for electrification of un-electrified remote census villages with non-conventional energy sources such as solar energy, biomass, small hydro, etc. The Ministry has so far provided support under the programme for electrification of 3064 villages, of which 1944 have been completed. The Ministry provides 90% of the benchmark cost of electrification through non-conventional energy sources as Central Financial Assistance. For the X Plan, a target of electrification of 5,000 villages with the corresponding outlay of Rs. 735 crore has been set.

The Remote Village Electrification Programme aims at meeting the power needs of those un-electrified remote villages where electrification through grid extension is either not feasible or not cost-effective. Initial information as received from the States indicates that number of such villages could be around 25,000.

Indian delegation's visit to London

2460. SHRI RAASHID ALVI:
SHRI SANJAY RAUT:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Indian delegation paid a visit to London for discussing with European Union, if so, in what context and background the visit was planned; and

(b) the main objective of the visit and how far the same was achieved indicating the agreements and MoUs signed in the field of energy during the visit?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) No, Sir. No Indian delegation paid a visit to London for discussions with European Union.

(b) Does not arise.